

What is the difference between em and rem units?

Both **em** and **rem** are relative CSS units, but they are relative to different things.

em

- **em** is relative to the **font-size of the element (or its parent)**.
- If the parent font-size is 16px, then $2\text{em} = 32\text{px}$.
- Values can “multiply” when elements are nested, so sizes may grow unexpectedly.

rem

- **rem** is relative to the **root element (html) font-size only**.
- If **html** font-size is 16px, then $2\text{rem} = 32\text{px}$ everywhere on the page.
- It is more consistent and easier to control across the whole website.

In short:

- Use **em** when you want size to depend on the element context.
- Use **rem** when you want predictable, global sizing.